



Patent

Case No.: 55943US003

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor:

BEDINGHAM, WILLIAM

Application No.:

Filed:

Title:

09/67780*5* 

October 2, 2000

Examiner:

SAMPLE PROCESSING APPARATUS, METHODS AND SYSTEMS

Group Art Unit:

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on:

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 CFR §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, enclosed is a completed Form PTO-1449 citing references submitted for consideration by the Examiner. A copy of each cited reference is also enclosed. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return the enclosed Form PTO-1449 to indicate that each reference has been considered.

Under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)(1), I hereby certify that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three (3) months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Under 37 CFR § 1.704(d), I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and that this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty (30) days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement.

A copy of the Search Report from a foreign counterpart application is enclosed.

It is believed that no fee is due; however, in the event a fee is required, please charge the fee to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

Respectfully submitted,

 $\frac{01/09/9603}{\text{Date}}$ 

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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel 3M Innovative Properties Company

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